College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Celebrates
CHSS Wall of Honor

Dean John de Castro and College of Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Board President Herbert O’Quinn unveil the CHSS Wall of Honor located on the first floor of the CHSS Building.
HONOR

Written in celebration of the CHSS Wall of Honor
induction of Walter Bennett, Joseph Clark, John Hannah, and Ferol Robinson

How blessed it is to be allowed
to dwell in the halls of academe,
where, of all places we might labor,
none permits so easily the cultivation
of the virtues men are measured by.

Here the rank impulses of the outer
world, the greed and savagery
that have marked our tiny progress
in the great expanse of time,
are distilled and studied so that
those we teach might learn
to avoid the failures of history
and develop and exercise
the virtues we are capable of.

Of all the virtues we possess,
none ranks higher than honor,
that divine spark that sets us apart
from others who may speak louder,
wave banners of wealth and power,
and serve their greater needs.
It is the virtue that thrives
even behind closed doors, where none
might witness its exercise.
And when we reach that final door--
where we must lay aside all
our virtues and our knowledge,
the wealth and power and passion--
beyond which lies the vast unknown,
honor will be the last that we surrender,
relinquished only when we step through,
like a favorite coat that we held dear,
hung on a peg beside the door
that last reminder that we were here.

Paul Ruffin, Regents Distinguished Professor of English
Sam Houston State University
February, 2011
Families and Friends Celebrate the Wall of Honor Recipients

Dean John de-Castro speaks to family and friends at the award ceremony.

Wall of Honor Plaques.
College of Humanities and Social Sciences Wall of Honor is a Celebration of the Success of Faculty and Alumni

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Board President, Herbert O’Quinn talks about the Board decision to honor faculty and alum who have made significant contributions to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and Sam Houston State University.
Walter H. Bennett
Wall of Honor Faculty Recipient

Walter Hugh Bennett was born February 26, 1938 in Beaumont, Texas. He received his B.S. at Sam Houston State University in 1961 with a minor in Geography. He continued at Sam Houston, and received an M.A. in Sociology in 1962 with minors in Geography and Economics. Dr. Bennett went to Mississippi State University, and received his Ph.D. in Sociology in 1970.

Walter Bennett began his teaching career at Sam Houston State University. He was an instructor in the Sociology Department from 1962 to 1964. While working on his Doctorate from Mississippi State, he was a teaching and research assistant, and held a part-time faculty position. In 1970 Dr. Bennett became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Sam Houston State University, and in 1973 accepted the position of Acting Chair of Sociology. From 1974 to 1994 he continued as Chair of the Department of Sociology. He retired from Sam Houston in 2010.

The current Chair of the Department of Sociology, Dr. Alessandro Bonnano speaks of Dr. Bennett, “Walter has been a distinguished member of the SHSU Sociology department for more than forty years. He was the youngest faculty member appointed department chair in the history of the Sociology Department, and the chair who served the longest term. During his illustrious career at SHSU, he distinguished himself for his dedication to the University, the Department, its faculty and students. I can safely say that in my long career in academia, I have not met a more dedicated member of the faculty than Walter. He has been and is an example for us all.”

Dr. Bennett served a thirty-six year long teaching career through SHSU with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. He was able to observe of this tenure five hundred and twenty-two students within the TDCJ system proudly receive their SHSU diplomas in Sociology and minor’s in Psychology. In recognition for his work in 2001, Dr. Bennett was presented at the Wynn Unit graduation a Distinguished Service Award by Lee College President, Dr. Jackson Sasser, and expressing appreciation for 25 years of service as an educator in the TDCJ Institutions. In September 2003 State Representative Lois Kolkhorst wrote to Dr. Bennett “It is people like you that touch lives and inspire people. I appreciate all that you do for Sam Houston State and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. You’re truly making a difference in the lives of many.”

Rep. Kolkhorst remarks to Dr. Bennett were a direct result of a correspondence between TDCJ students and Rep. Kolkhorst.
Dr. Joseph L. Clark received his BA from Texas Christian University in 1961, and earned an MA from Columbia University. He also attended the University of Virginia and the University of California and was twice a graduate fellow at the University of Texas at Austin. His teaching career began in Hereford in 1903. There he taught elementary subjects for one year, then taught history at his home town high school. He also taught history and English at John Tarleton College in Stephenville from 1907-1910. Dr. Clark quickly stepped up the faculty ladder at SHSU moving from professor of history to department head, and finally to director of the Division of Social Sciences.

Besides his contributions as historian and educator, Dr. Clark was recognized for his efforts to set white and black men down to discuss racial conflict. He helped organize the Texas Commission On Inter-Racial Co-Operation and served as its president for twenty years.

A wide range of learning and keen interest in the people of Texas resulted in the publication of several history texts. Among his best-known writings are “The History of Texas,” “A New History of Texas,” and “History of the Negro in Texas.”

In his years at SHSU, Dr. Clark was respected by both the faculty and administration. Though he once served briefly as a dean, he preferred teaching in order to continue classroom instruction and maintain close contact with student life. A room in the Newton-Gresham Library at SHSU containing the school’s collection of Texas history is named in his honor, and a portrait of the former historian hangs in the Thomason room.

Dr. Clark died on September 23rd, 1969.
John H. Hannah
Wall of Honor
Alumni Recipient

John Hannah, Jr. was born on June 30, 1939, to John H. Hannah, Sr. and Velma Youngblood Hannah. After graduating from Diboll High School in 1957, he entered the U.S. Navy, where he served for four years as an electronic technician on destroyer escorts. Upon returning to East Texas, he attended Sam Houston State University and graduated in 1964 with a degree in History and English.

Judge Hannah’s public service career began in 1966 when he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives at the tender age of 26. He served three terms, and it was during his last term in office that he and others led a revolt against the old system of doing business at the people’s expense.

While serving in the Legislature, Judge Hannah gave up his dream of being a history professor and started law school. He attended South Texas College of Law, as well as the University of Houston and the University of Texas. He passed the bar in 1971.

In 1973, he left the Legislature and was elected district attorney for Angelina County. He returned to Austin in 1975, as General Counsel for the public interest group Common Cause.


After practicing law in Tyler for ten years, Hannah returned to Austin in 1991, when Texas Governor Ann Richards appointed him Secretary of State, a position that he held until 1994. In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed Hannah to the federal bench in the Eastern District of Texas. He quickly became known to attorneys appearing before him as an intelligent and evenhanded judge, with a great judicial temperament. While he always maintained a firm control of his court, he was never without his humor and wit. Attorneys appearing before him often commented on the courtesy shown to them, and the compassion and fairness shown the parties. He became Chief Judge in 2001, and served with distinction in that position until his death on December 4th, 2003.
Ferol Robinson worked his way through college by selling milk from a family cow and went on to become a journalism professor and vice president at Sam Houston State University. Fresh out of Jewett in Leon County, Ferol Macon Robinson enrolled in 1938 at what was then Sam Houston State Teachers College in Huntsville. Robinson graduated in 1942. He then served three years stateside during World War II.

After the war, Robinson landed a job at Sam Houston as a teacher trainer and student recruiter. After receiving a master's degree there in 1947, Robinson left for the University of Missouri, where he earned a doctorate in 1953.

When Robinson returned to Sam Houston, Harmon Lowman, president of the school, asked him to head the journalism department. Robinson went to work, training students to be reporters and editors, public relations workers and teachers. For 10 years before Robinson retired in 1981, he was vice president of the university. "There are dozens of us, maybe hundreds, who would never have gotten through college without his assistance," said Jack Sheridan, a 1961 graduate of Sam Houston State and a reporter for the old Houston Post and Houston Press. "He found us jobs, grants, scholarships and convinced us every day that we could make it.

"... It was decades after graduation that I realized his gift was 'giving of himself.' He did it in a completely unassuming way. He never achieved fame or fortune. But he lived a life of more substance and meaning than anyone I have ever known," Sheridan said.

"He was just the best dad you could ask for," said his daughter, Patricia Trammell. "He believed that men and women should be equal. If you aspired to a job, his idea was: You can do it. Robinson was born in Jewett on June 1, 1918, one of six children of Bob Robinson and Cloud Speer Robinson. He died Feb. 4, 2007 in a Huntsville hospital.

Mr. Frank Krystyniak speaks for the family of Dr. Ferol Robinson.
2011 Wall of Honor Reception
College of Humanities & Social Sciences Building:

At the ground breaking, Dean John de Castro quoted Winston Churchill: “We shape our buildings and then they shape us.” This beautiful building will shape the future of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

The newest college in the newest building

Largest academic building on campus

150,000 square feet of classroom space, faculty offices, student services area, and administrative offices

13 classrooms with seating for 1,434 students, plus additional seminar rooms

Classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art, high-definition projection systems, integrated with the university Blackboard software

10,000 square feet for our nationally award-winning Student Advising and Mentoring Center (SAM Center)

Home for the new Professional and Academic Center for Excellence (PACE), a center for assisting faculty, particularly new faculty, teaching assistants, administrators, and staff toward improvement in their assigned tasks

The HSS Building contains:

Department of Political Science

Department of Psychology & Philosophy

Department of Sociology

Office of the Dean

Accounts Payable

Business Office

Human Resources Office

Payroll

Purchasing

CHSS Classroom Technology

The CHSS classroom building is being equipped with state-of-the-art instructional technology in all of the classrooms with an eye toward enhancing the teaching experience for both the professor and the student.

A total of 16 classrooms will be outfitted with high definition projection systems and LCD displays, sound systems, video players and a networked computer that has a student response system.

The response system allows students to interact in real time by answering questions and surveys with the results being presented on the presentation computer.

One use of this technology is to give professors a tool for determining how well students are absorbing the material and where additional explanation may be necessary.

The rooms will also contain SMART Classroom technology which allows all electronic presentations to be saved to a file that is then uploaded to Blackboard, the classroom management system. Student can then review the presented PowerPoint presentations or notes as part of their studies.

HSS will also be equipped with two high-definition video conferencing rooms. One will be on the first level in the executive conference room and the other will be a classroom on the first floor. With 120 seats this will be SHSU’s largest videoconferencing venue opening up opportunities for guest speakers to be brought in via video conference as well as academic classes.

The executive conference room will support videoconferencing as well as seminar classes and faculty training. Using state-of-the-art electronic displays, high definition video cameras and video conferencing, this facility will be equipped for communication and recording of meetings, classes and training. This room is also ready to serve as the University’s Command Center when the emergency management plan has been activated.

Finally, HSS will have, as part of the PACE Center, high-end video production capabilities giving faculty a place to produce content to enhance their classroom effectiveness. This package also includes the ability to send broadcast video feeds to commercial media outlets.

The return on these investments will be multi-faceted. We envision this project directly serving three main purposes: 1) providing a context for faculty/student exposure to and discussion of instructional technologies; 2) developing and demonstrating the power of technology to transform education; and 3) providing a powerful tool for recruiting and retaining quality students.

HSS will be equipped with Gigabit Ethernet to the desktop. Once installed, it will be saturated with wireless connectivity within the building.

SpawGlass Construction Corp. and WHR Architects, Inc.—guides in the construction of this $30 million building
Final Note of Special Recognition...

Sam Houston State University Debate Team Completes Successful Season

Congratulations to the new SHSU Debate Team (see attached picture) and their coach Adam Key. The team completed an amazingly successful season their first year back in competition. They competed in 10 International Public Debate Association tournaments and won 3 tournaments, amassing 70 individual and team trophies. The team ended the season with a fourth place in the nation finish. SHSU individual debaters Clayton Goss and Adesuwa Omoruyi ended the season ranked nationally fifth and eighth respectively.
Sam Houston State University’s
College of Humanities and Social Sciences Advisory Board

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The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) provides an essential component to a liberal arts education: understanding human beings in their diversity as expressed in their literatures, histories, ideas, values, oral and written expressions, and behavior. By promoting analytic, interpretive, interpersonal, and communication skills, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences facilitates personal growth, competent professionalism, and responsible citizenship.

**CHSS Mission Statement**

To become a “Tier I Balanced” college -- nationally recognized for excellence in both instruction and research/scholarship -- in which:
1. all students receive excellent instruction from tenure-track faculty,
2. undergraduate and graduate students are actively involved in research activities,
3. graduates are well regarded by employers and graduate and professional schools,
4. faculty well rounded who take equal instructional, scholarly/research, and service activities,
5. instruction and research/scholarship are equally valued and rewarded,
6. the scholarship of teaching and innovation in instruction are promoted and rewarded,
7. the quality of the research, scholarship, and creative activity of the faculty are well regarded internationally,
8. seeking extramural funding for research/scholarship is promoted and rewarded,
9. outstanding scholarship is valued regardless of the attraction of extramural funding,
10. extramural funding for research is used to support students and engage them in the production of knowledge and understanding,
11. an active cross-disciplinary intellectual environment is present that promotes creative interactions of faculty and students,
12. students and faculty are actively engaged in the community,
13. service to the college and the profession are encouraged, valued, and rewarded.

“A teaching institution disseminates knowledge; a research institution discovers knowledge -- a balanced institution does both.”

**CHSS Vision Statement**

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**Giving to the College of Humanities & Social Sciences**

The faculty and students of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are highly appreciative of the generosity of our alumni and friends. These important gifts are used to develop and maintain high quality educational opportunities for our students. They are essential to developing interactions between students and faculty and for attracting top students and faculty to Sam. If you would like to contribute to the college, please either contribute directly by sending a check made out to the Friends of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences or by designating all or a portion of your contribution to SHSU to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. You may also designate your gift to go to a specific department or program in the college. Simply make out your check to the Friends of (name) Department. The college faculty and students will be most grateful.

**Office Staff**

- **Dean:** Dr. John de Castro
- **Associate Dean:** Dr. Terry Bilhartz
- **Associate Dean:** Dr. Jerry Bruce
- **Assistant to the Dean:** Brenda Lowery
- **Research Support:** Toni Abshire
- **Administrative Accounting:** Evelyn Hasouris-Turner
- **Office Manager/Graduate Support:** Brittany Johnson